

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7951
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07651

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, US, UK, UR, GW, GE, CGEN
SUBJECT: GDR - USE BY ALLI EMBASSIES OF TERMINOLOGY
REFERRING TO WEST BERLIN

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN MAY 2 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRENCH
REP DESCRIBED DIFFICULTY FRENCH EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN
HAD ENCOUNTERED IN USE OF TERMINOLOGY USED TO REFER TO
WEST BERLIN IN DOCUMENTS PRESENTED TO GDR MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). HE RECOMMENDED THAT FRANCE,
US AND UK FOLLOW UK PRACTICE OF USING "WESTERN SECTORS
OF BERLIN," WHICH MFA HAS ACCEPTED. ACTION REQUESTED:
INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN AND ITS
VIEWS ON PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY

1. IN MAY 2 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRENCH REP
(DE BOISSIEU) INFORMED US THAT GDR HAS OBJECTED TO
FORM OF DESIGNATION FOR WEST BERLIN USED IN FRENCH
DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO MFA. MOST CASES INVOLVE APPLI-
CATIONS FOR GDR VISAS SUBMITTED BY FRENCH EMBASSY TO
MFA OR CERTIFICATIONS OF CAPACITY TO MARRY, WHICH
ARE SUBMITTED TO MFA FOR AUTHENTICATION. IN BOTH TYPES
OF CASES, WHERE A FRENCH NATIONAL RESIDENT IN WEST
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BERLIN IS INVOLVED, THE EMBASSY HAS HERETOFORE SIMPLY
USED "BERLIN" PLUS STREET ADDRESS. HOWEVER, MFA
REJECTED SEVERAL DOCUMENTS ON APRIL 14, SAYING THAT
DOCUMENTS MUST SHOW THAT THE RESIDENCE IS IN WEST
BERLIN. MFA EXPLAINED THAT PAST ACCEPTANCE OF DOCU-
MENTS WITHOUT THIS DESIGNATION WAS DUE TO INADVERTENCE.

2. DE BOISSIEU SAID THAT FRENCH EMBASSY INQUIRED OF US AND UK EMBASSIES AS TO THEIR PRACTICE AND FOUND THAT US PRACTICE VARIED WHILE UK PRACTICE WAS TO USE "WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN". UK REP (EYERS) NOTED THAT UK EMBASSY HAD USED JUST THE POSTAL ADDRESS ON VISA APPLICATIONS A FEW WEEKS AGO AND THE APPLICATIONS WERE REJECTED.

3. DE BOISSIEU SAID THAT THE THREE EMBASSIES IN EAST BERLIN SHOULD USE A COMMON FORM OF DESIGNATION AND FRENCH PREFER "WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN," WHICH IS THE LANGUAGE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. HE SAID, SUPPORTED BY FRG REP (HENZE), THAT IT IS SENSELESS TO USE THE TERM "BERLIN (WEST)" IN VIEW OF THE EFFORT MADE TO BLOCK SOVIET OR EAST EUROPEAN INSISTENCE ON THE USE OF THE SAME TERM IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AMEMBASSY BERLIN MIGHT PROVIDE ON ITS EXPERIENCE WITH USE OF TERMINOLOGY AND EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON USE OF "WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN." IF EMBASSY AGREES, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THIS MATTER CAN BEST BE COORDINATED BY US, UK AND FRENCH EMBASSIES IN BERLIN.

WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE INFORMATION AS TO WHAT NOMENCLATURE GDR USES IN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE EMBASSY CONCERNING ADDRESSES IN EAST BERLIN; IS IT ONLY "BERLIN," OR "BERLIN, CAPITAL OF THE GDR"? (I.E., DO THEY SEEK TO IMPOSE ON US THEIR NOMENCLATURE FOR BOTH PARTS OF THE CITY?)

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